

REMARKS

Claims 1, 6-10, and 17-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Hsue et al., U.S. Pub. 2002/0192921. Claims 2-5 and 15-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hsue et al., and further in view of Yamanaka et al., U.S. Pub. 2002/0013011 and Munoz et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,376,910.

Since the effective dates of Hsue et al. and Yamanaka et al., as references, are their respective U.S. filing dates, June 15, 2001 and March 2, 2001, and since both of those effective dates are after December 26, 2000, the filing date of the priority document herein, Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-394040, a verified English translation of which is attached hereto, Hsue et al. and Yamanaka et al. have been overcome as references, and the pending rejections should be withdrawn, see Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (M.P.E.P.) §§201.15, 706.02(f)(1).

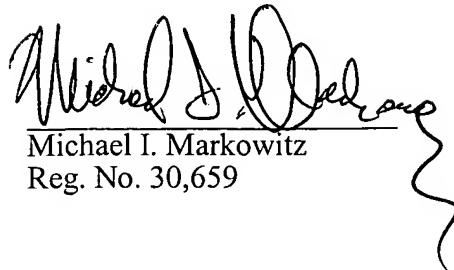
CLOSING

An earnest effort has been made to be fully responsive to the Examiner's objections. In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that independent claims 1 and 10 are in condition for allowance, as well as those claims dependent therefrom. Passage of this case to allowance is earnestly solicited.

However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper, not fully covered by an enclosed check, may be charged on
Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosure: Verified English Translation of Japanese Patent Application No. 2000/394040

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